

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). A system for maintaining at least partial blood flow within a heart, comprising:

a conduit having an inner flow path and an outer flow path, the conduit being sized and configured to be introduced into the heart through at least one of the wall of the right atrium, the wall of the right ventricle, the wall of the pulmonary artery, the wall of left atrium, the wall of the left ventricle, and the wall of the aorta;

said conduit including a blood inlet port communicating with one of the inner flow path and the outer flow path and a blood outlet port communicating with the other one of the inner flow path and the outer flow path, said blood inlet port and said blood outlet port being sized and configured to be positioned on either side of at least one of the tricuspid valve, the pulmonary valve, the bicuspid valve, and the aortic valve; and

a blood pump disposed within said conduit for selectively transporting blood from said blood inlet port to said blood outlet port of said conduit.

2 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1 and further, wherein said conduit is sized and configured to be positioned within the heart such that said blood inlet port is disposed within the right atrium, said blood outlet is positioned in the pulmonary artery, and wherein said pump may be selectively operated to maintain at least partial blood flow through the protected blood flow path established within the conduit.

3 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1 and further, wherein said conduit is sized and configured to be positioned within the heart such that said blood inlet port is disposed within the left atrium, said blood outlet is positioned in one of the left ventricle and the aorta, and wherein said pump may be selectively operated to maintain at least partial blood flow through the protected blood flow path established within the conduit.

4 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1 and further, wherein said conduit is sized and configured to be positioned within the heart such that said blood inlet port is disposed within the pulmonary artery, said blood outlet is positioned in one of the right ventricle and right atrium, and wherein said pump may be selectively operated to maintain at least partial blood flow through the protected blood flow path established within the conduit.

5 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1 ~~and further~~, wherein said conduit is sized and configured to be positioned within the heart such that said blood inlet port is disposed within the right atrium, said blood outlet is positioned in the right ventricle, and wherein said pump may be selectively operated to maintain at least partial blood flow through the protected blood flow path established within the conduit.

6 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1 ~~and further~~, wherein said conduit is sized and configured to be positioned within the heart such that said blood inlet port is disposed within the left atrium, said blood outlet is positioned in the left ventricle, and wherein said pump may be selectively operated to maintain at least partial blood flow through the protected blood flow path established within the conduit.

7 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1 ~~and further~~, wherein said pump is one of an axial flow blood pump and a mixed flow blood pump disposed within the conduit for transporting blood from said blood inlet to said blood outlet.

8 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1, ~~and further~~[,] including a control circuit forming part of said conduit to allow a user to manually or automatically control the speed and rotation of said pump.

9 (Currently amended). The system of claim 1 ~~and further~~, wherein said conduit includes at least one pre-formed curve along its length.

10 (Canceled).

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows and as shown on the attached Replacement Sheets:

In Fig. 18, please change one of reference numbers 136 to 126.

In Fig. 19, please change reference number 13 to 134.